

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

August 13, 2007

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

Absent: Clouette, Duffy

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2007 with corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on August 6, 2007 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops around the world.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No Comments

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Mansfield Charter Revision Commission Report

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded to approve the following resolutions regarding the proposed changes to the Town Charter.

RESOLUTIONS TO APPROVE BALLOT QUESTIONS AND REFERENCES REGARDING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN CHARTER FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD

A. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BALLOT QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN CHARTER FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD.

WHEREAS, the Town Council, pursuant to Chapter 99 of the Connecticut General Statutes has unanimously approved in their entirety for submission to the electors of the Town of Mansfield, the proposed Charter amendments set forth in the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission dated July 24, 2007, and submitted to the Town Council on July 26, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has directed that such proposed Charter amendments be duly submitted to the electors of the Town of Mansfield for approval or rejection by said electors at the regular election to be held on November 6, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes section 7-191(f), assigned to the Town Attorney and the Town Clerk of the Town of Mansfield the responsibility to draft proposed specific language for not more than four ballot questions for review and action by the Council at its regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, August 13, 2007: and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is committed to the goal of presenting the results of the Charter Revision process to the electors of the Town in the election to be held on November 6, 2007, in as fair and equitable and informative a manner as possible:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The following four questions be placed on the November 6, 2007 ballot:

Shall the Charter of the Town of Mansfield be revised to make changes to the budget process, including revised budget town meeting procedures which, among other things, permit voters to approve, lower or raise the budget of any program, and provide the opportunity for eligible voters to petition the budget passed by the town meeting to referendum?

Shall the Charter of the Town of Mansfield be revised to make changes regarding certain elective offices including, but not limited to the elimination of the election of Constables, revision of the terms of Planning & Zoning Commission Alternates from 2 to 4 years, and the election of the Deputy Mayor by the Town Council rather than appointment by the Mayor, and to delegate to the Town Council the authority to establish ethical and conflict of interest standards for elective and appointed officials and town employees, as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission?

Shall the Charter of the Town of Mansfield be revised to make changes regarding the administration of town government supervised and directed by the Town Manager, as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission?

Shall the additional changes to the Charter of the Town of Mansfield recommended by the Charter Revision Commission be adopted, including a requirement that the Charter be reviewed by the Town Council at least every five years?

B. RESOLUTION TO ASSIGN PROPOSED CHANGES TO SPECIFIC BALLOT QUESTIONS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes section 7-191(f) the Town Council has approved one or several questions for the ballot; and

WHEREAS, if approved by a majority of electors, the said questions shall amend the Charter of the Town of Mansfield:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Town Council determines that the following questions encompass the referenced

proposed changes as recommended by the Charter Revision Committee and approved by the Town Council:

Shall the Charter of the Town of Mansfield be revised to make changes to the budget process, including revised budget town meeting procedures which, among other things, permit voters to approve, lower or raise the budget of any program, and provide the opportunity for eligible voters to petition the budget passed by the town meeting to referendum?

This first Ballot Question addresses Charter sections §C311, §C312, §C402, §C403, §C404 and §C405.

Shall the Charter of the Town of Mansfield be revised to make changes regarding certain elective offices including, but not limited to the elimination of the election of Constables, revision of the terms of Planning & Zoning Commission Alternates from 2 to 4 years, and the election of the Deputy Mayor by the Town Council rather than appointment by the Mayor, and to delegate to the Town Council the authority to establish ethical and conflict of interest standards for elective and appointed officials and town employees, as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission?

This second Ballot Question addresses Charter sections §C202, §C208, §302, §303, §304, §C307, §308, and §603

Shall the Charter of the Town of Mansfield be revised to make changes regarding the administration of town government supervised and directed by the Town Manager, as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission?

This third Ballot Question addresses Charter sections §C502, §C504, §C506, §C507, §C 508, §C509, §C510, §C511, §C512, §C513, §C601, and §C602

Shall the additional changes to the Charter of the Town of Mansfield recommended by the Charter Revision Commission be adopted, including a requirement that the Charter be reviewed by the Town Council at least every five years?

This fourth Ballot Question addresses Charter sections §C701 and §C703.

Dennis O'Brien, Town Attorney felt that after meeting with the Town Clerk, Mary Stanton, the proposed ballot questions were well defined and ready to be brought before the Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Community/Campus Relations

Town Manager, Matt Hart, announced that the Town and the UConn Off-Campus Student Services would be holding a community reception on August 15, 2007 at the Community Center. At that time, Jim Hintz the new Director of Off-Campus Student Services will be introduced. An overview of the services provided by the new office and the housing inspection program will be discussed.

Goals for the Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership have been adopted and will be assigned. The partnership is now beginning its third year. Much progress has been made with

the housing code and the new office for off-campus services.

Staff members are currently conducting an evaluation of programs to address community quality of life issues. In some circumstances, enforcement data is lacking, particularly with the older ordinances such as the noise ordinance. The reports will provide the Council with recommendations as to how more effectively evaluate programs in the future and to make sure the data is being recorded correctly.

Ms. Koehn questioned whether the Mansfield Community-Campus Partnership is able to submit comments to the PZC regarding the possibility of the private apartment complex application. Ms. Koehn would like to know whether the Partnership will be able to address concerns regarding the size of buffers, policing, noise and other matters involving large housing complexes. Mr. Hart did not feel that the Partnership would be engaging in that task but more in management practices.

3. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager has not finalized recommendations as to how to proceed with the Stadium Road Detention Basin. This item will be addressed at the August 27th Town Council meeting.

As recommended by the Fenton River study the University has issued a water conservation alert. Town staff has also been directed to conserve water. The town is monitoring the situation.

4. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill

Mr. Schaefer inquired about the concentration of Benzene that exceeds the groundwater protection criteria and its effect on wells.

Mr. Hart reported that the findings from all prior reports showed no imminent risk.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Blair reported that six UConn students have submitted applications for volunteer firefighters positions with four of the applicants being fully trained.

X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

See attached report

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

5. M. Capriola re: W. Jordan Appointment
6. L. Hultgren re: Recent Work on the Atwoodville Road Bridge
7. M. Jodi Rell re: D. Dagon Appointment

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Christine Hawthorne, Asst. Town Clerk